THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) In the Mid-Term Appraisal Document of the Xth Plan, Planning Commission, had suggested that in order to provide more resources for increasing access and improving quality, apart from a substantial increase in public funding, increasing the fees paid by students is equally necessary and that a substantial increase in fees combined with an aggressive means-based scholarships and loan programmes is the need of the hour. They also suggested that the Central Government should give the lead in this area by increasing fees in the Central Universities. In the comments sent to the Planning Commission, this Department had expressed its disagreement to the proposition in the document about "the need for Central Government to give lead in this area by increasing fees in the Central Universities" as it was considered premature since a CABE committee was looking into all aspects of financing of higher education.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

20. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' had been started in 1999 for providing education to near about 192 million children who were not going to schools;

(b) if so, the amount allocated under this campaign till the year 2004-05;

(c) the amount out of the above which has been utilized till March, 2005; and

(d) the States where utilisation is less than 50 per cent of the allocated amount during above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) a programme for Universaiisation of Elementary Education was initiated during the year 2000-2001 and also aimed at bringing children not going to school into the fold of elementary education.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) A total amount of Rs. 9868.18 Crores was allocated by Government of India to the States/UTs till year 2004-05 under the SSA.

(c) Atotal amount of Rs. 11722.42 crores has been the expenditure of SSA till March 2005, which includes funds received by way of GOI & State Share and funds carried forward from previous years.

(d) Less than 50 percent expenditure is reported in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

Mass education till Class XII

21. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to treat education upto class XII as mass education;

(b) if so, the work-plan to turn it account; and

(c) if not, what else is the status of mass education in the future target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Facilities in Government Schools

22. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to provide better educational facilities particularly in the Government schools where most of the students belong to the families which are unable to afford expenses of education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Most schools come within the purview of the State Boards of Secondary Education under